## MY RUBY WEDDING RING.

BY L. FRANK BAUM. (Copyright, 1896, by the Bacheller Syndicate.)

The inn at Loudre was very disagreeable. The odor of garlic and cabbage and the dampness and dirt were insupportable, and so I decided to push on to Danvers. The only vehicle I could procure was a rattling two-seated gig, drawn by a bony white horse of doubtful ability; but as my destination was only three hours away, and I was not liable to meet any one on the lonely road, I started off cheerfully enough, resolved to enjoy my solitary drive to the

The moonlight, as it glinted on the soft green of the hedges and streaked the gray of the dusty road, was very beautiful, and before half a league had been passed over I heartily congratulated my good fortune

in escaping the horrible inn at Loudre. After an hour's dreamy and delightful ride I came to a cross-roads where with difficulty I deciphered the battered signpost and learned I must turn to the left to reach Danvers. So, clucking up my deliberate steed, which proceeded in a half-dignified, half-protesting fashion, I turned into a grassy lane between two tall hedges, and

"Mademoiselle," I said, haltingly, "I see but one alternative. You must marry me." The violet eyes opened wide in surprise 'Marry you, monsieur?"

"Then pursuit would be useless. Being my wife you would escape this villain who insists upon wedding you. I am free and able to give you all that would add to your hapriness, and I shall learn to love you very dearly. It is true that I am a stranger to you, but I assure you I am in all ways worthy to seek both your heart and your

She gazed with earnest intentness into

"I think I shall trust you, monsieur. In-deed I cannot help myself. I will be your

There was no coyness in her answer, no blush tinted the pale, beautiful face; but she drew herself up with an air of simple dignity that commanded my respect and

"Then come," I said, eagerly, "we must lose no time. It will be midnight before we can hope to reach Danvers."
"Not Danvers," she replied, shrinking



"TOMORROW IS MY WEDDING DAY.

drove through a lonely district until the dreamy influence of the night overcame me, and I drifted into a somnolent state midway between sleep and waking.

my horse, that gave a frightened snort, and planted both feet firmly before him. A subdued sobbing, as of a woman in distress, feil upon my ears, and, leaning for-ward. I peered into the moonlight to discover whence it came.

A high brick wall ran close to the road-way, covered with ivy and lichens, and leaning against an angle of this, a few steps before me, was a slight, girlish form, draped in a dark mantle.

I sprang to the ground and softly approached her. Her face was buried in her hands and she sobbed bitterly.
"Mademoiselle," I said, speaking in French, "you are in trouble. Can I assist

you in any way?"
She lifted her head, and the moonlight fell upon the most beautiful face I have ever seen. Absolutely faultless in feature, it was surmounted by a crown of yellow hair that shore like gold in the glare of the moonbeams, while a pair of deep violet eyes that even tears could not dim looked

earnestly into mine.
"Who are you?" I asked, gently, "and why are you here?"

"I am Amelie de Boursons, monsieur, and I reside at the chateau just within these gates." The soft, musical notes of her voice added to the powerful impression her exquis-

ite beauty had already produced upon my heart,
"But it is late," I continued; "surely some great misfortune must have befallen you to bring you here at this hour."

"It is true, monsieur," she replied, strug-gling with a new paroxysm of grief, "tomorrow is my wedding day. The tone of despair in which these words

"Very well." I answered, "let us be off." Refusing my proffered assistance, Mile. de Boursons walked to the carriage and sprang lightly to the back seat, Rather ered up the reins and drove off as swiftly as I could induce the ancient steed to

over her head and shoulders, and only one during the long drive did she speak. Ther it was to direct me to the Tregonne road. With ample time for reflection, my adventure now began to seem rather queer and uncarry, and by the time we discovered the lights of Tregonne twinkling be fore us I had come to doubt the perfect wisdom of my present course.

But it was too late to draw back now and the girl was very beautiful.
"This is the notary's," said my compan ion in her low, sweet voice, indicating by a gesture a rambling structure from whose windows gleamed a single light. I leared out, found the door at the end

of a long pathway and knocked upon it loudly A tail, thin man beyond the middle age, holding a tallow candle high above his

head ,answered my call. 'You are the notary?' I asked, briefly. He nod-led assent. "I wish to be married."
"Married!" he echoed in surprise, "but

then, monsieur?" 'But the bride, monsieur!"

"I will fetch the bride. She is waiting

I thought he intended to protest, so I left him abruptly and returned for the lady. She was already coming toward the

to go before, while she followed silently up the pathway.

The patary admitted us without cere-



THE HAND WAS AS COLD AS ICE.

asked. "If you but knew, monsieur," she said, "how vile and brutal is the man they are forcing me to marry, you would willingly save me from my horrible fate!" She accompanied these words with an appealing look into my face, and then she dropped her head and sobbed anew.

I did not stop to reason upon the strangeness of all this. I was a young, generous-hearted man in those days, and could not resist this appeal from beauty in distress. "But tell me," I said, "how can I save you from this distasteful marriage? Do you wish to fly? I have a conveyance close by, and will gladly escort you to a place of

'To fly would avail me nothing," she answered with a sweet sadness; "they would follow us and force me to return." "But how else can I save you?" I asked,

helplessly.
"I do not know," she replied, with a sudden calianess that suggested despair. "But tiless you can find some way to succor

me I shall take my own life."

There was no doubt, from the expression of her low, earnest voice, that she meant this, and, filled with consternation at the this, and, filled with consternation at the thought, I racked my brains for some way to preserve both her life and happiness. At last an idea came to me, but I trem-tied at my own presumption as I sug-

lighted room that appeared to be a study.

My companion at once scated herself in an arm-hair, but without removing the mufflings from her face. The notary snuffed the candle, arranged his books, and turning to me with a pene-

trating 'ook, said: "I must know your name, monsieur." "Richard Harrington." "Your residence?"

He wrote the answers in his book. Then, lancing toward the armchair, he con-"The lady's name?"

I waited for her to reply, but as she re mained silent, I answered: "Amelie de Boursons."
"whe?" cried the notary in a loud voice, springing to his feet, while a look of fear

and consternation spread over his wrinkled "Amelie de Boursons," I repeated, slowly, infected by the man's agitation in spite of

The notary stared wildly at the muffled form of the lady. Then he drew out his handkerchief and wiped the beads of perspiration from his forehead. "What does this mean, monsieur?" I demanded, angrily.

The man heeded me not the slightest, but clutching the edge of the table to steady himself, and extending his long, bony finger toward the girl, he exclaimed:

"The notary, with destended eyes fixed upon the vision, sank back in his chair with a low moan.

"This was the explained monstant" I Some Six Thousand Destroyed by the

with a low moan.

"This must be explained, monsieur," I cried, striding to his side and grasping his shoulder. "Is there any reason why I should not marry Mile. de Boursons?"

"Mademoiselle de Boursons," returned the rotary, still regarding her with horror, "has been dead these forty years!"

"Dead!" I echoed, staring first at the notary and then at the girl, while a sense of bewilderment overcame me.

Mile. de Boursons arose with a charming smile and came to my side.

"See, monsieur," she exclaimed, mockingly, and giving me her hand, "do you also think me dead?"

The hand was as old as ice, but its touch

The hand was as cold as ice, but its touch sent a strange thrill through my body.
"Come, monsieur," I said to the notary, who watched the scene in amazement, "read the ceremony at once. We are in

haste.' Slowly and with trembling voice the no-

Slowly and with trembling voice the notary obeyed, the girl at my side returning the answers in a sweet, collected voice that disarmed my fears and calmed to some extent the notary himself.

I drew a seal ring from my finger and placed it upon her icy hand, and in its place she slipped a large ruby from her own hand upon mine. own hand upon mine.

The ceremony concluded, I paid the notary, thanking him briefly for his services, and, followed by my bride, walked down the path to my carriage. The notary stood in the door,way lighting us with the cendle. candle.

At the carriage I turned to hand my wife to her seat, but she had disappeared. I ran back to the doorway.

"Where is my wife?" I asked.

"She followed you down the path," said

"But she is not there!" Without a word the notary accompanied me back to the carrage. No trace of the

Right and left amongst the shrubbery I searched; I called aloud her name, entreating her to come to me, but no signt of the beautiful face rewarded my efforts. I returned to the notary's study filled

with vague misgivings.
"Where can she be?" I asked, dismally. "In her grave," was the hoarse answer.
"Monsieur!" "I told you before that she was dead.

It is true. You have wedded a ghost!"

The next morning, in company with the notary, I drove down the road 'till we came to the brick wall where I had first seen

We entered the gates and walked to the chateau that stood in the neglected grounds. An old woman admitted us, the caretaker, and, at the notary's request, allowed us to visit the gallery.

The notary threw back the shutters and

the sun came in and flooded the portrait of a beautiful girl, whose violet eyes regarded me with the same sweet expression I had noted in my bride of the previous evening.
"It is Amelie de Boursons," said the

"It is Amelle de Boursons," said the notary, in a gentle voice. "I have seen this picture often, and heard the girl's pitiful story, and that is why I knew her last night to be a mere phantom. Her father was a stern, hard man, who insisted upon her marrying a person utterly distasteful to the young girl. She tried to escape, but was captured and brought home to confront her fate. On the wedding mornconfront her fate. On the wedding morning they found her dead in her bed. She had taken her own life. That was forty years ago, monsieur!"

As we left the room I glanced curiously

at the ruby that sparkled on my finger.

I wear it to this day.

It is the only evidence I have ever possessed of my phantom bride.

KAFFIR IZINYANGA.

Native Medicine Men and Herb Doctors and Their Strange Remedies.

From the Pall Mall Gazette. The medical profession as pursued by natives among their kin is primitive, but in most cases efficacious and lucrative, and, like several Kaffir customs and procedures, is recognized within reasonable limits by the law of the land. In Natal native physicians are divided into two classes—medicine men and herbalists. The former, known to their fellows as "Iziny-lang" are expectable procedures, is recognized within reasonable streets. The request for this additional \$10,000 is, of course, to be based upon the damage inflicted upon the trees by the recent big gale, and I think there is hardly any question that the extra appropriation will be granted. If it is, every single tree that was toppled over by the big wind. anga so kwe lapa," are especially proficient in the healing art; while the latter, rejoicing in the name of "Izinyanga zemeti," effect their cures through the me-dium of herbs with medicinal properties, of which there are over 100 species in the colony known to the natives. One of the most frequent cases with which a native doctor has to deal is snake bite, and for this there are at least a dozen herbal antidotes, the chief of which is the root of the aster asper, a small plant somewhat like the daisy, with lilac-colored flowers. It has been used with success by hunters on their dogs when snake bitten, but the secret of the infallible remedy for the deadliest snake bite is said to have died with Cete-wayo, who had a gray powder which never failed to cure. Herbs for cattle diseases are plentiful, but so far none of them has stemmed the onslaughts of rinderpest. The isi-nwazi is a favorite remedy for "redwater" in cattle, and is also employed as an emetic. The umbelebele is very val-vable as an eye salve, and to its milky sap the late Sir Theophilus Shepstone was indebted for the preservation of a valuable horse, which had got some of the blinding juice of the euphorbia into its eye. The di, whose aromatic roots act as a very wholesome tonic. It is on the point of ex-tinction in the colony, and a large price is

now paid for its roots.

When called in the doctor receives a fee, known as "ulugxa." varying from three shillings to half a guinea, according to his standing. Should a cure result a further fee is claimable, but failure to cure is un rewarded by payment beyond the call fee. Every doctor has to take out a license to practice from the magistrate or adminis-trator of native law in the district, which must be favorably indersed by the chief of his or her (for lady doctors have existed from time immemorial among the Kaffirs) kraal. For this license a payment of is made, and the holder is immediately removed from the list of practicing physicians if so rash as to sell, or profess to possess, love philters or charms to soothe the savage breast. And in the code of native law male and female diviners and other quacks, such as rain or lightning doctors, are expressly forbidden to practice the black art. Though practically extinct the black art. Though practically extinct in the colony, the profession of dream doctor was in full swing in Zululand prior to the dethronement of Cetewayo, and they pretended to detect and "smell out" any one guilty of malpractices—a convenient methed of doing away with awkward relatives and opponents. Chaka himself assumed the office of dream doctor, and in pursuit of his profession (?) on one occapursuit of his profession (?) on one occa-sion brutally murdered no fewer than 400 women, for mere lust of blood. His last words were in keeping with his assumed role of a diviner; for, as he expired at the hands of Dingaan's assegais, he exclaim-ed: "You think you will rule this country when I am gone; but I see the white man coming and he will be your master."

CONTRACTOR'S SHREWD SCHEME.

With a Hand Organ's Aid His Men Worked Faster. F: on London Tit-Bits.

Standing in front of his uncompleted flat building a contractor uneasily watched the laborers as they slowly performed their work. The men who carried in the bricks and tiling from the street were especially annoying to him. They moved about at a sleepy and turtle-like pace, and did not appear to be worried in the least when their slowness was the cause of delay on the inside work.

While he was watching them in disgust an Italian with a barrel organ halted just across the way and began grinding out a lively march. He had been playing for several minutes before the contractor observed the marvelous effect of the music on the men who were carrying the bricks. They came out of the building like circus horses the grand out of the building like circus horses in a grand entree, hurriedly filled their hods, and then marched back into the

building at double quick, stepping high.

The builder went across the street and gave the Italian a shilling, in return for which he played lively tunes for a half hour. During that half hour the laborers did a half day's work. Next day the con-tractor ran across another Italian, and sent him over to the corner to play. And the laborers never discovered what a shab-by trick had been played upon them.

AFTER A DAY'S HARD WORK

Wind's Recent Fury.

MEASURES TO REPAIR THE DAMAGES

Parking Commission.

85,000 LINE THE STREETS

Chat With Mr. Saunders of the

HE RECENT HUR ricane which laid low nearly 6,000 shade trees lining the streets of Washingthat the national capital is the best shaded city on the American continent. trees had been cleared away, their absence

created so small a gap in the forestry of the city's streets as to be unnoticeable except to the residents temporarily deprived of the restless shadows of leafage in front of their own houses. To such individual householders the prospect from the front windows of their homes the morning after the storm was, of course, a trifle bare, but, so dense is the shade tree foliage throughout the great majority of the streets of Washington, that, after the wreckage of the blastuprooted trees had been carted away, gen erally speaking, the perambulating citizen could not discover any apparent difference in the appearance of the city's streets.

States-if, indeed, there is such a city in the world-that could stand, with so marvelously small a change in its aspect, the loss of six thousand shade trees upon its streets. There are, in fact, a number of cities in the United States several times the size of Washington that have not as many as six thousand shade trees (exclusive of those in the public parks) within their limits. A visitation like that which swooped down upon Washington on the night of September 29 would have stripped such snade-deficient cities utterly bare of their street foliage and made desolate and vacant the general appearance of their

There is certainly no city in the United

thoroughfares. A great many citizens made moan on the lay following the storm over the destruction that had been wrought among the shade trees, and predictions were common to the effect that the present generation would be translated to a better and bright-er world long before the streets of Washington resumed their normal perfectly-shaded appearance. That these gloomy predictions were all astray is made clear in the statement to a Star reporter made by Mr. William Saunders, the superintendent of the Department of Agriculture's gardens and grounds, and a member of the District parking commission, which has charge of the planting of shade trees along the streets of the city.

To Repair the Storm Damage.

"The parking commission," said Mr. Saunders, "will ask this year for an extra appropriation of \$10,000, in addition to the regular appropriation of \$20,000 made annually for carrying on the work of planting shade trees on newly made streets and rethat was toppled over by the big wind storm will be replaced by the end of next spring with a good-sized, healthy young

Even if the extra appropriation is not made—a contingency scarcely to be con-sidered, as I believe—the work of renewing the destroyed trees will go right on out of the regular appropriation, and certainly within a year every yawning hole created by an uprooted tree will be filled by a lusty, rapidly growing young spreader, capab

of withstanding the tempests of many years." The streets of the capital have not al ways been so splendidly shaded as they are at present. Up to the early seventies, when Ex-Gov. Shepherd was placed in charge of the municipal destiny of Washington, they presented a bare and forlorn appearance enough. The only shade trees that lined the streets were those planted by individual citizens in front of their own homes. The parking commission was organized as a branch of the board of public works, and it was not until then that the systematic p'anting of shade trees under municipal direction began. The parking commission assumed control of all tree planting along the thoroughfares, and thus this duty was satisfactorily removed from the hands of citi-

At first, the commission was obliged to purchase all of the trees thus planted from the nurseries of private owners, and the work of giving the city a proper amount of shade during the heated terms of summer went on with comparative slowness. But in 1873, at the suggestion of Mr. Saun ders, who was a member of the original parking commission, and who has so served without remuneration ever since, the commission acquired the eight-acre shade tree nursery near the Washington Asylum.

This nursery has been maintained and improved for a quarter of a century, and nearly every shade tree now flourishing along the streets of Washington was raised from the seed within the boundaries of the eight-acre lot, the soil of which at the present time gives nourishment to about 15,000 young trees, ready for transplanting —a number sufficient to replace almost three times over the trees destroyed by the big gale.

Since the parking commission took charge of the work of providing shade for the streets of Washington about 85,000 trees have been planted. If all the shade trees set out on the streets of the capital during the past twenty-five years were placed twenty-five feet apart they would make a solid block of upward of 1,350 acres of forest. From 3,000 to 3,500 shade trees are planted along the streets every year.
Of late years the rapid spread of the city, with the consequent making of new and the extension of old streets, has taxed the energies of Mr. Lenham, the superintendent of the parking commission, to the utn.cst in providing for the transplantation of shade trees from the District nursery to such newly blocked-out thoroughfares, but the work has been kept well up to date.

The trouble has not been in securing the requisite number of trees, of which there requisite numbers of trees, of which there is always a plentiful supply at the nursery, but in paying for the necessary labor of transplantation out of the meager annual appropriation for the purpose, which was only last year raised from \$18,000 to \$20,000, after remaining at the former figure for many years. With a permanent force of something less, than thirty laborers the superintendent finds it exceedingly difficult to keep up with the work of tree planting in this rapidly growing capital of the nain this rapidly growing capital of the na-

While the shade trees of Washington include nearly all of the best-known varieties, experience has shown that comparatively few of these varieties stand the numerous tests to which time, weather and vegetation plagues subject them, so that the parking commission now practically limits itself to the planting of seven kinds of shade trees each of which has thorof shade trees, each of which has thoroughly demonstrated its hardiness and staying qualities.

The Carolina poplar, for instance, which

was planted in great numbers at the be-ginning of the parking commission's super-vision, on account of the rapidity with which it grows, has been given up for several years past. It was found that this tree, largely on account of its mushroom manner of growth, was peculiarly subject to quick decay after reaching maturity, and also proved an easy prey to the inroads of caterpillars. Moreover, notwithstanding its apparent strength and bulkiness, the Carolina poplar has invariably exhibited its relative weakness in being the first among the city's shade trees to topple over under the minor fury of comparatively insignifi-cant wind storms. A considerable majority of the trees uprooted by the recent storm, as was noticed by Mr. Saunders, were Car-

olina poplars. For these reasons the planting of shade trees of this family has been discontinued.

The Approved Varieties.

"Experience has taught the parking commission," said Mr. Saunders, "that of the many varieties of shade trees that have been tried upon the streets of Washington, the seven varieties which have best stood the ordeal of time are the silver maple, the sugar maple, the American elm, the American linden, the tulip tree, the sycamore and the Norway maple. More silver maples are planted than any other kind, for it possesses most of the qualities required in a street tree. It is easily propagated, its growth is rapid and the tree is of upright habit unless thrown out of its normal shape by injudicious pruning, which frequently happens. The foliage is ample, but rarely so dense as to prevent a considerable circulation of air through its branches—a very desirable quality. It is stood the ordeal of time are the silver branches—a very desirable quality. It is comparatively free from insects, and holds its own well in comparatively poor soil when once fairly started in its permanent

location.

"We also plant a good many of the sugar maples. A trifie less hardy than the silver maple, the sugar maple is, in my opinion, the finest of all trees. Finely symmetrical in contour, it has at all times a stately gracefulness, and this is greatly enhanced by ton, only served to emphasize the fact that the national capital is the best shaded city on the of the ripening leaves in autumn, it is unequaled among trees. It is, besides, a cleanly tree, not subject to the attacks of insects. The only trouble with the sugar maple is that its massive habit of growth has a tendency to produce too dense shade for a street tree, a fault which we endeavor to overcome by a constant thinning of their branches.

their branches.

"The American elm is chiefly employed for the wide avenues, as it requires a good deal of space for its stately growth. As it attains age and size it acquires a certain degree of picturesque ramification in the disposition and general outline of its branches, some specimens assuming a drooping or pendent habit, while others stretch out freely, forming wide-spreading tops. Although we are still planting the American elm, its reputation has suffered a slight impairment within the past two years, on account of its liability to injury from a singularly voracious leaf-eating from a singularly voracious leaf-eating bcetle which then made its appearance in

Vigorous and Beautiful.

"On the wide avenues in the northwest section of the city we also plant considerable numbers of the robust and lofty spreading American lindens. They require a good deal of attention, and, because they must have good soil and a wide feeding range to maintain health and vigor, a good deal of care is exercised as to where they are planted, lest they wither and die upon our hands. The American linden's flowers are exceedingly fragrant, and in the dis-tricts in which they are planted the air is beavy with this healthful odor during the

springtime. We are devoting a great deal of attention to the cultivation of the tulip tree in the District nursery, and shall plant a great many of them during the next few years. They are exceedingly beautiful snade trees, with the unique form of their leaves, their vivid green appearance in spring, their brilliant yellow coloring in fall, and the tulip-like formation of their flowers. In columnar massiveness, elegance of stem and general symmetry of development, the tulip tree belongs to the prize class of the development, the subject trees pressing the silver manifered. shade trees, pressing the silver maple very closely in point of beauty. But it has the drawback of being rather difficult to transplant. Its roots are fleshy, and decay upon being severed or broken. It also demands the very best kind of soil. But the general excellence and beauty of the tree is ample ompensation for the care which its foster

The sycamore, which is the characteristic shade tree of Paris and other European cities, is planted occasionally by the parking commission, but it is found to be rather too large for general use. Its hardiness permits of its standing a good deal of city smoke, which is not one of the drawbacks of Washington life. As a lofty tree the sycamore is somewhat outclassed in this city by the American elm and the American linden. Sycamores are mostly planted here on the thinly settled suburban streets. "The Norway maple we are largely intro-ducing to supplant dead or uprooted trees on streets where the shade

that the leprivation for a few years of the shade of a single tree is not much of a hardship—for the Norway maple is of slow growth, although when it has attained its full size it is an admirable tree." Too Closely Together. Besides the varities enumerated by Mr Saunders as the best adapted for general use, the older streets of the city show

occasional ash-leaved maples, the pyr amidal Ginkgo, the sweet gum, the flower clustered horse chestnut, and numerous kinds of oaks, but it is only rarely that trees of these varities are planted along the streets in these days. Mr. Saunders says that up to a few years ago the mistake was made by the commission of planting shade trees too closely to-gether, notwithstanding his own repeated

protests against the practice. "A great number of the main residence streets of Washington, and notably 11th street," said he to The Star man, "could easily stand the removal of every other tree, and yet be amply shaded. On many

only eighteen or twenty feet apart. Trees of the largest size—such as lindens, elms, sycamores, silver maples and tulip trees—should be planted at least forty-five feet apart. The Norway maple and trees of similar even growth should not be set at a less distance than thirty-five feet apart. This is courte close everyth for any kind of less distance than thirty-five feet apart. This is quite close enough for any kind of tree in the street, and these rules of distance are now being observed by the commission. Such distances allow each tree room for expansion, and obviate the evils of too great a density of foliage and total exclusion of sun rays—evils which are apt to develop into intolerable nuisances, depriving dwellings of the sanitary influences of light and air."

Trees and Health.

The most advanced sanitarians are not fully agreed as to whether trees in cities are injurious or beneficial to health. Mr. Saunders, who, besides knowing practically a great deal of all there is to be known corcerning things that grow in the ground is versed in several other branches of learning, takes issue with the class of sanitarians who hold that shade trees in cities increase the death rate.

"With reasonable care as to situation and distance," said Mr. Saunders to The Star reporter, "it is impossible that shade trees can conduce to disease. The con-

trees can conduce to disease. The con-stant evaporation of moisture from the folisge of trees during dry sunny weather has a decidedly cooling effect upon the immediately surrounding space, and imparts a baimy influence to an atmosphere rendered arid by contact with heated surfaces of stone or brick. The water required for their sustenance having to be absorbed from the soil, it is thus drained of much superfluous moisture, keeping the

of much superfluous moisture, keeping the ground dry about foundations and cellar walls, and thus far contributing to the healthy surroundings of dwellings.

"It is, of course, not advisable to have trees so close as to form a constant shade on the house itself, as it is preferable that the sun should shine on the walls than that they be always shaded from its direct rays. The common belief that too much shade around a dwelling is condumuch shade around a dwelling is condu-cive to ague has been proven an error, for the best medical records assert that trees do not influence this malady in any degree. Instances are common where dwellings heavily shaded by trees are free from the disease, while in the same neighborhood houses entirely destitute of the shade of trees are full of it.
"I do not dispute, however, that un-

healthy influences are induced and fos-tered in dwellings where proper ventilation is retarded by dense tree shade. Without heat, the primary factor in ventilation, there can be no appreciable movement in the atmosphere, and where the rays of the sun are intercepted by the foliage of trees this healthful movement in the air ness, with its accompaniment of a sickly atmosphere, pervades the cool overshaded dwelling.

"To prevent this trees should not be plant-"To prevent this trees should not be plant-ed at a less distance than thirty feet from a building. It should not be the purpose to shade dwellings, but to shade the side-walks and promenades for pedestrians, and yet allow ample freedom for the admission of sun and wind on the street proper, as also on the surrounding spaces. Thus, while the cooling effects of foliage will pervade the atmosphere, and an enjoyable shade be secured, ventilation will not be impaired."

Guards for Trees.

Washington is the only city in the world which has adopted the woven-wire netting guards for street shade trees, to prevent their defacement by the nibbling of horses, young, newly-transplanted trees

"The wooden box," said Mr. Saunders,
"will support and control a young tree during sterms. For large trees it is worse than useless. The weight of the top of a good-

"When the tree attempts to recover the rigidity of the box prevents its natural rigidity of the box prevents its natural backward swaying, so that every fresh blast of wind bends it still farther, until it is eventually either broken or prostrated.

Moreover, the wooden boxes furnish a exposed a space as possible, so that during refuge and a breeding place for insects— as, by the way, do the utterly useless and foolish bands of cotton which a good many citizens place around the trunks of their street trees, apparently ignorant of the fact that the leaf-destroying insects and caterpillars are hatched upon the branches and do not crawl up the trunks of trees from the ground."

Not Due to Pruning.

Mr. Saunders scouts the idea advanced by some after the big storm that insufficlent pruning of the trees rendered them such an easy prey to the wind.

"The worst treatment that street trees can réceive," says he, "is to cut their tops, 'heading down,' as it is termed. This prac-tice is too prevalent in several nearby large cities. It is a kind of butchery from which many palpable evils result. In the first place, it is a heavy blow to the vitality of the tree, and greatly mars its beauty and usefulness for all time. It causes a thick, hedge-like growth of young shoots, which have to be removed, involving further prun-ing, otherwise a dense growth, the very of such streets the shade trees are often reverse of what is desirable, will endanger

Gladness Comes

With a better understanding of the transient nature of the many physical ills, which vanish before proper efforts—gentle efforts—pleasant efforts—rightly directed. There is comfort in the knowledge, that so many forms of sickness are not due to any actual disease, but simply to a constipated condition of the system, which the pleasant family laxative, Syrup of Figs, promptly removes. That is why it is the only remedy with millions of families, and is everywhere esteemed so highly by all who value good health. Its beneficial effects are due to the fact, that it is the one remedy which promotes internal cleanliness without debilitating the organs on which it acts. It is therefore all important, in order to get its bene-ficial effects, to note when you purchase, that you have the genuine arti-cle, which is manufactured by the California Fig Syrup Co. only and sold by all reputable druggists.

If in the enjoyment of good health, and the system is regular, laxatives or other remedies are then not needed. If afflicted with any actual disease, one may be commended to the most skillful physicians, but if in need of a laxative, one should have the best, and with the well-informed everywhere, Syrup of Figs stands highest and is most largely used and gives most general satisfaction.

the tree during storms, because of its density, the solid mass of heavy leaves pre-senting an impenetrable surface to the wind. The topping tends to the destruc-tion of many roots, rendering the prostra-tion of the tree by wind an exceedingly simple matter."

AUTUMN AND ROSES.

some Suggestions of Worth in the Cultivation of the Welcome Flowers. From the Baltimore American.

Now is the time that the successful cultivator of garden roses begins to look out for his supply for another year. Having had his summer blessed with their delightful bloom and fragrance, he does not now turn his back upon the generous bushes, but continues to extend to them the same care that was given through their yielding season. The ground around them must not now, any more than then, be allowed to become hard and dry, but by frequent hoeing and occa-sional watering should be kept light, soft and this guard has admirably proved its usefulness. The wire guards cost the commission twenty-five cents apiece, but the money they save in the course of a year more than atones for the outlay. The commission does not take much stock in the mission does not take much stock in the miss from cows being preferred to any other, and in selecting this great care should be taken that it is sufficiently mature, as a green

fomentation is likely to ensue, which is death to the plant. But it is not enough to protect merely the sized tree, especially when the foliage is wet, will loosen the box and generally cause the destruction of the tree, which, in swaying over, breaks or draws up the stakes, carrying the box with it as it leans from the storm.

"When the tree statement in the top of a good a good and it is not enough to protect merely the roots of the plant. A great lover of roses, who has been cultivating them successfully for thirty years, tells me that every autumn to the evergreeen, and sticks them in the ground around and between the bushes, ground around and between the bushes, where they serve to perfectly protect their the summer the plants may receive

full abundance of sun and rain, wind and Just before budding time in the spring fertilizer which has lain on the ground during the winter should be thoroughly hoed into the soil, and two-thirds of the previous year's growth should be ruthlessly cut, together with all dead branches. Noth-ing less than this severe cutting process will perpetuate the life and vigor of the plant. In selecting plants for a country rose garden one cannot possibly do better than to choose that a least a fourth of them shall be of a Jacqueminot variety. They are the hardiest, the most prolific, the most fra-grant and in every way the most satisfac-

The rose lover, whom I have here previ-ously quoted, has a rose bush of this variety now thirty years old, and during all these years it has not failed to put forth its lovely blossoms at the rate of one hundred and fifty to two hundred a season.

In addition to the fertilizer already men-

tory roses that one can cultivate

tioned, bone and powdered charcoal have both been used on the soil for this magnificent plant, the latter's special office being to preserve and deepen the tint of the rose

A POLITICAL MEETING.





